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Building Bridges for Every Child:
Reception, Care and Services to
Support Unaccompanied Children
in the United States

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BEYOND LABELS

Refugee, migrant and asylum-seeker are terms used throughout this report. Most have specific legal meanings enshrined in international and U.S. laws that correlate to a status in a country. No matter which term is used, a child is a child.

Migrant: A person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a home country regardless of whether the move is voluntary or involuntary and regardless of the length of stay.

Refugee: A person who lives outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence and is unable to return because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

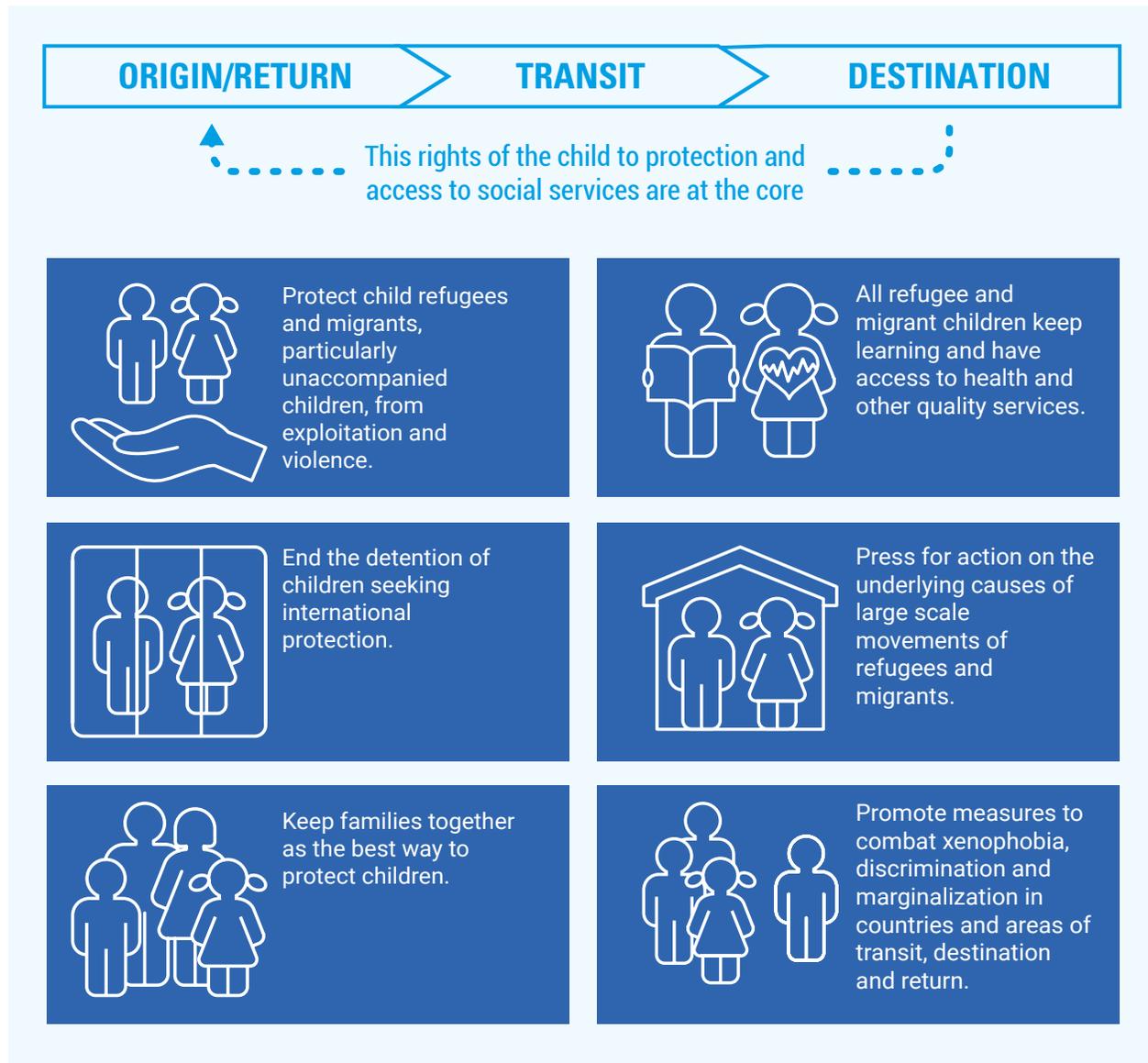
Asylum-seeker: A person who seeks international protection in a country to which she or he has fled because of persecution.

Unaccompanied child: A child separated from both parents and other relatives who is not being cared for by any other adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Sources: UNICEF, *Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children*, UNICEF, New York, September 2016; Inter-agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, *Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*, March 2017, p. 15; United Nations Children's Fund, *Education Uprooted*, UNICEF, New York, September 2017, p. 5.

UNICEF'S WORK ALONG THE NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA – MEXICO – UNITED STATES MIGRATORY ROUTE

In northern Central America, Mexico and the United States, UNICEF takes a comprehensive approach to protecting children in countries of origin and across the migratory route. Our work is guided by UNICEF's Agenda for Action,¹ the same priorities that guide our work for uprooted children across the globe.





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